VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the claims:

Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11 have been amended as follows:

2 (amended). A method for the preparation of rhPBGD by a method comprising

[a) introducing, into a suitable vector, a nucleic acid fragment which includes a nucleic acid sequence encoding PBGD;

b) transforming the production strain according to claim 1 with the vector]

(a) providing a vector comprising an expressible nucleic acid sequence encoding PBGD;

[c)] (b) culturing the transformed host cell under conditions facilitating expression of the nucleic acid sequence;

[d)] (c) recovering the expression product from the culture.

4 (amended). A method according to claim 2 [or 3] further comprising a purification step.

6 (amended). A method according to [any of claim 2-5] claim 2, wherein the PBGD is recombinant human PBGD [based on any of] encoded by Seq. ID NO 3 (clone PBGD 1.1) [and] or Seq. ID NO 4 (non-erythro PBGD 1.1.1).

7 (amended). An expression plasmid pExp1-M2-BB as shown in Seq. ID NO 1 [for use in the expression of rhPBGD in E. coli].

9 (amended). A rhPBGD produced by the method of [any of claims 2-6] claim 2 and able to lower the levels of PBG and ALA in mice during an acute attack of porphyria in a transgenic mouse model where the PBGD gene has partially been knocked-out.

10 (amended). A rhPBGD having a stability of at least 6 weeks at 20°C[, such as for at least 7 weeks, preferably for 8 weeks].

11 (amended). A rhPBGD having a stability resulting in a decrease in activity of less [that] than 10% per month[, such as less than 5%].

Claims 12-17 have been added.